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REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the office action dated May 19, 2005.

Claims 1-20 were pending in the application. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected.

Claims 10-20 were allowed by the Examiner. Claims 3-9 were determined to be allowable but objected to.

By way of this amendment, the Applicant has amended Claim 1. Claims 2-20 remain unchanged.

Accordingly, Claims 1-20 are currently pending.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 USC 102

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 102(b), as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,490,005 (Steinbach et al.). The rejection stated that the Steinbach reference discloses an integrated circuit that includes a plurality of post amplifiers for receiving data signals and outputting amplified data signals wherein the post amplifiers are capable of operating at multiple different input voltage levels invention and that the present invention is therefore fully anticipated in view of this reference.

The Applicant has amended Claim 1 of the present invention to include the limitation that the post amplifier array be configured for use in an optical communication system. In this regard the claims of the present invention now include optical receivers that are configured to receive incoming optical signals and convert them to electronic signals that are then fed to the post amplifier array. Specifically, the present invention requires that the post amplifier array be entirely disposed on a single integrated circuit chip and that the array further be in electronic communication with an array of photo detectors. It is the photo detectors that supply the data signal to the post amplifier array for amplification.

With regard to the multiple operating voltage limitation, the present invention is directed toward a single array that can be integrated with a variety of different communication networks, each of which operates at a different voltage supply level. In this regard, the claim has been amended to more clearly indicate that the post amplifier

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array is configured to operate at a preselected, preset operational voltage. This voltage is determined by the operational parameters of the network into which the post amplifier array will be integrated. The voltage supplied to the array is not varied once the array is installed. The limitation provided instead is meant to clarify the point that the array is capable of being matched to the same voltage level as that of the network into which the array is installed.

In contrast, the cited Steinbach reference is directed to an analog to digital video signal converter. The device is configured to utilize a pre amplifier array at alternating voltages to create a dithering effect between two adjacent signal lines as the analog video signal is passed to the post amplifier array. With regard to the voltage differential, as each scan line of the video signal is processed by the pre-amplifier array, the voltage is either stepped up or down in order to create an alternating dithering effect between each of the adjacent scan lines. This can clearly be differentiated from the present invention for at least two reasons. First, the present invention is directed to a post amplifier array that can be operated at different operational voltages. Second, the voltage supply to the post amplifier array is steady and constant once selected. The voltage is not varied during operation, it is set at a fixed level before the post amplifier array is placed into service.

Finally, the present invention, as amended differs from the cited Steinbach reference in that the present invention requires the use of an optical receiver to receive optical communication signals and convert them to electronic signals for processing by the post amplifier. The Steinbach device takes an analog signal dithers it and then passes the dithered signal to the post amplifiers for conversion to a digital signal. There is no disclosure or suggestion regarding the use of the analog-digital signal converter of Steinbach in an optical communication application wherein an optical signal is received, converted to an electronic signal and subsequently amplified.

Since the present invention recites subject matter that is not disclosed in the cited Steinbach reference, the present invention cannot be anticipated and the rejection

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is not believed to be applicable. Reconsideration, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully solicited.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 USC 103

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,490,005 (Steinbach et al.). The Examiner has stated that although Steinbach does not demonstrate the claimed voltage input levels it would have been obvious to utilize the claimed voltage range to obtain the optimum benefit of the circuit.

As stated above, with regard to the multiple operating voltage limitation, the present invention is directed toward a single array that can be integrated with a variety of different communication networks, each of which operates at a different voltage supply level. In this regard, the claim has been amended to more clearly indicate that the post amplifier array is configured to operate at a preselected, preset operational voltage. This voltage is determined by the operational parameters of the network into which the post amplifier array will be integrated. The voltage supplied to the array is not varied once the array is installed. The limitation provided instead is meant to clarify the point that the array is capable of being matched to the same voltage level as that of the network into which the array is installed.

Further, the present invention, as amended differs from the cited Steinbach reference in that the present invention requires the use of an optical receiver to receive optical communication signals and convert them to electronic signals for processing by the post amplifier. The Steinbach device takes an analog signal dithers it and then passes the dithered signal to the post amplifiers for conversion to a digital signal. There is no disclosure or suggestion regarding the use of the analog-digital signal converter of Steinbach in an optical communication application wherein an optical signal is received, converted to an electronic signal and subsequently amplified.

Since the present invention, in the claims as amended, discloses subject matter that is not shown or suggested in the cited reference, the present invention cannot be

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rendered obvious. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

III. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner indicated that Claims 10-20 were allowed. Further, the Examiner stated that Claims 3-9 were allowable but objected to for being dependent on rejected base claims. Since the Applicant believes that base claims 1 and 2 are now fully allowable in view of the above arguments, withdrawal of this objection is also requested.

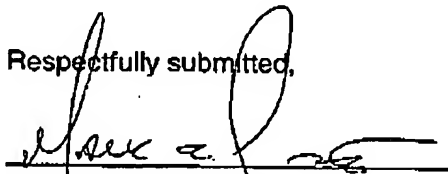
IV. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, claims 1-20 are believed to be in condition for allowance and the application ready for issue.

Corresponding action is respectfully solicited.

PTO is authorized to charge any additional fees incurred as a result of the filing hereof or credit any overpayment to our account #02-0900.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark E. Tetreault, Esq.
Reg. No. 48,289

BARLOW, JOSEPHS & HOLMES, Ltd.
101 Dyer Street, 5th Floor
Providence, RI 02903
(401) 273-4446 (tel)
(401) 273-4447 (fax)
met@barjos.com